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THE PLAGUE SITUATION.

The boards of health of the State of Louisiana and of the city of New Orleans have been cooperating in the trapping of rats along the New Orleans water front, and the laboratory examination of the rats thus caught. Surg. J. H. White of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service is in charge of this work. Up to July 27 several hundred rats had been collected and examined, and on this date Surg. White reported that one plague-infected rat had been found at Stuyvesant Dock No. 5, head of Pennison Street; that the location where the rat was found had not been connected with Porto Rican or Cuban shipping, and that, therefore, presumably the infection did not come from that source; that an extensive campaign had been planned for the destruction of rats and the eradication of the focus discovered; and that that part of the city contiguous to the location where the infected rat was found, including 60 city blocks, will be surrounded, and all rodents therein will be killed, beginning on the city side and working toward the river.

In Porto Rico, a case was reported as suspicious of plague on July 22 in Santurce. The diagnosis in this case was confirmed as plague on July 26. On July 23 a case was reported as suspicious in the Puerta de Tierra section of San Juan, and the diagnosis was confirmed July 24. On July 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 no new cases were reported. On July 29 one case was reported at San Juan. This makes a total for all Porto Rico, up to and including July 29, of 45 cases, of which 30 cases occurred in San Juan; 10 in Santurce, a residential suburb of San Juan; 2 at Carolina, a town 13 miles from San Juan; 1 in Loiza, a short distance from Carolina; 1 at Dorado, a town 13 miles from San Juan; and 1 on a vessel at Arroyo on the southern coast of the island.

In Cuba no new cases were reported from July 23 to July 28. The total number of cases in Havana, therefore, to July 29 remains as reported last week—3 cases.